



Prospectus and Call for Artists for
Public Art on the New Mexico Rail Runner Express
Commuter Rail Project



(Revised as of April 15, 2005)

Submission Deadline: Friday, May 13, 2005 – 4:00 p.m.

Project Amount: Up to \$20,000 for Designs on Glass Windscreen Panels

PROJECT INTENT: The project intent is to commission artistic designs that can be etched into glass for the commuter rail platform windscreens. The designs should promote a strong sense of visual continuity along the entire route by accenting and celebrating each community's unique identity. The public art windscreen designs should enhance the riders' experiences as they board and de-board the train. The artist will not necessarily be responsible for etching the designs into the glass panels, but will provide oversight to the MRCOG designated contractor. Artist may also propose additional materials or media that compliment the basic etched glass windscreens. Additional proposed media should enrich the design by providing texture, depth or other visual enhancements without compromising the windscreen fabrication.

BACKGROUND: The Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and local governments in the Belen to Bernalillo corridor are developing a commuter rail system designed to serve the middle Rio Grande Valley. The Commuter Rail is called the Rail Runner Express. Details about the Rail Runner and the associated logos and graphics can be viewed at the MRGOC web page at http://www.mrcog-nm.gov/commuter_rail.htm

The service is scheduled to begin in late fall 2005 between Belen and Bernalillo, with service potentially being extended to Santa Fe. Initially, there will be 8 boarding platforms in 6 different governmental jurisdictions: Belen, Los Lunas, Bernalillo County (north and south valley), the City of Albuquerque, Sandia Pueblo, and the Town of Bernalillo (downtown and north).

ELIGIBILITY: The commuter rail public art project is open to New Mexico artists only.

SELECTION PROCESS: The MRCOG and the various municipal and tribal jurisdictions with commuter rail platforms, as described above, represent the public art stakeholders. Representatives from these stakeholder communities will be known as the Local Selection Committee, or LSC. An already established design team has been working to

develop the train stations and the actual platform designs and functions. Some members of the design team are serving as stakeholders on the LSC.

The LSC will review all artists' proposals and select the artist or artist team. The LSC will submit the selected artist or artist team to the governing body of each entity. Public art funds are currently committed from MRCOG and Bernalillo County. Additional funds from other stakeholders are under negotiations. The MRCOG will make the final approval of the recommended selected artist(s).

The Bernalillo County Public Art Program in collaboration with MRCOG will provide the commuter rail public art project and contract management.

WHEN: Commuter rail service is scheduled to begin in late fall 2005 with completed platforms in place at 7 of the 8 station sites. Construction documents for the actual platform and the primary platform elements (canopy, lighting, signage, etc.) will be ready for bid by early May 2005. The LSC intends to select an artist or artist team by late May 2005 and issue a professional services contract by mid-June. This would allow for ample design and fabrication time.

PUBLIC ART SCOPE: While the commuter rail design team explored a number of potential art opportunities on the platform, windscreens are the most promising art opportunity. Windscreens meet the three primary criteria used to evaluate the range of opportunities that were identified. These criteria include: 1) the art opportunity must not compromise the timeline for construction or platform opening, 2) the opportunity must be functional, and 3) the opportunity must be present at all platforms in the corridor.

Each of the platforms will have between six and eight glass windscreen panels measuring 7' 4" w. x 6' t. The selected artist(s) will work with the LSC and each community to develop a series of designs that can be etched into the glass panels. The design series should include one or more unifying designs that can be produced for each platform location along with individualized designs that reflect the uniqueness of each community.

The selected artist(s) may have additional opportunities to participate in other platform design elements, but such participation is not required nor guaranteed throughout the process and would be contingent on other constraints such as timeframe and budget.

For more information about the entire commuter rail project, and to view preliminary construction drawings, please visit http://www.mrcog-nm.gov/commuter_rail.htm

Artists who are interested in viewing samples of windscreens may want to visit the following web site. <http://www.trimet.org/improving/publicart/bussshelters.htm>

TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

May 13, 2005 Artists' Submission Deadline

May 18, 2005 LSC Review of Submissions

May 25, 2005 Approval of selected artist(s) by local jurisdictions
May 27, 2005 LSC report selected artist(s) to MRCOG
June 14, 2005 Award Contract

PROJECT BUDGET: Up to \$20,000 is available for all windscreen design services.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Submission packages must be sealed and received *in* the Bernalillo County Manager's Office by 4:00 p.m. (local time) at One Civic Plaza NW, 10th Floor, Room 10010, Albuquerque, NM 87102 on Monday, May 13, 2005. Please mark your package "1% for Public Art Program, Commuter Rail Project". Late submissions will not be accepted. Overnight or express delivery is not recommended due to irregular carrier handling procedures, which can result in delivery location confusion. The County is not responsible if submissions are not received *in* the County Manager's Office by the deadline. The only acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt of submissions *in the County Manager's Office* is the time-date stamp on the proposal package or other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the County Manager's Office.

A proposal package must consist of the following items: a letter of intent, sketch(es), slides and slide key (or appropriate digital media), artist resume, and a return envelope. Following is a detailed description of the requirements for each of these components, including page-size and page-length limits. Note that for most components the information should be presented on 8 ½- by-11-inch pages. All items will be returned.

1. **Letter of Intent.** This letter should describe the overall streetscape artwork concepts for meeting the requirements of this prospectus, the proposed media for the artwork elements, and the basic plan for implementing the project. The letter should not exceed two 8 ½- by-11-inch pages. The letter of intent should clearly address the artist's/team's approach to the site and overall sense of scale for the design. (NOTE: Artists should consider windscreen materials carefully, as the windscreen artwork must retain some level of transparency to assure visibility to opposite sides of the platform.)
2. **Preliminary Sketch:** In order to better understand the artist's visual communication skills and techniques, artists must submit one or two preliminary sketches, tracings, or photo or digital composites to visually convey the proposed sense of scale, mass, flow, repetition or other artistic quality relevant to the use of the windscreen space and sites. The LSC understands that the submitted sketches are only an *initial response to the site* and will be used to evaluate visual communication skills necessary for actual proposal and project development.
3. **Slides and Annotated Slide List.** Up to 20 slides or 20 digital images can be submitted. The slides or digital images should include examples of recent artworks that demonstrate the artist(s) design and construction ability. Each slide or image should be numbered and should include the artist's name. The slides should be accompanied by a numbered slide list that provides the year, size, media, and location of the artworks. The slide list should not exceed three 8 ½- by-11-inch pages. For

digital media, please provide the images on a CD in the form of individual JPG's or in a PowerPoint presentation file.

4. **Artist Resume.** A current resume must be provided. If submitting as a team, a current resume should be submitted for each team member. Resumes should not exceed four 8 ½- by-11-inch pages.
5. **References.** Up to three professional references that have intimate knowledge of the artist's work and working methods. The list must include complete and current addresses and telephone number(s), or e-mail.
6. **Return Envelope.** The return envelope should be large enough to accommodate all of the materials submitted in the proposal package that you want returned. The Bernalillo County Public Art Program will provide the return postage.

QUESTIONS? Call the Bernalillo County Public Art Program Manager, Sherri Olsen, at (505) 768-4257 or e-mail ssolsen@bernco.gov. Or, visit the Mid-Region Council of Governments web page at http://www.mrcog-nm.gov/commuter_rail.htm

DEADLINE: Friday, May 13, 2005 by 4:00 p.m.



